

THE GAZETTE

Published for members of the SHAPE/Chièvres, Brussels and Schinnen communities

Changes to transfer of education benefits

All post 9/11 GI Bill transfer of education benefits requests submitted and approved on/after Aug. 1, 2013 will incur a four-year service obligation from the transfer of education benefits request date, regardless of years in service (except when precluded by either policy or statute from committing an additional four years, e.g. temporary early retirement authority). For information transferring education benefits contact U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Education Incentives section, 1-800-872-8272; usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-post911gibill@mail.mil.

Tuition Assistance

The Army has restored tuition assistance for Soldiers for 2013. Soldiers can now request tuition assistance for the remainder of the year. Eligibility and annual caps for assistance remain unchanged. For more information and to restart TA visit the GoArmyEd website.

Central Issue Facility

Beginning May 1, the operating hours of the CIF on Chièvres Air Base will be as follows:

Mon: closed

Tue-Fri: 8:30 a.m. to noon (walk-in) and 1 to 4 p.m. (appointment only).

For information, contact DSN 361-5187 or civilian 068-275187.

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Garrison, host nation partners to build relations, understanding



Keith Houin

Belgian 1st Sgt. Maj. Gill Ballestero of the Belgian Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit prepares the robot to demonstrate disarming a suspicious package during an exercise at Caserne Daumerie Monday, April 15, 2013. This is just one of the numerous events that help U.S. Army Garrison Benelux build partnerships with our host nation.

See also page 2 and 3

Partnerships I Continued

By Marie-Lise Baneton

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

If there were such an observance, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux could have named April 'Host Nation Relation Month.'

In a matter of weeks, the garrison staff tested their emergency response skills with their Belgian counterparts during a full scale exercise, hosted the Belgian Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team for a table top exercise and demonstration and conducted a table top exercise with senior emergency planners from the province.

For more than 45 years, USAG Benelux has been collaborating with two host nations – Belgium and the Netherlands. For the garrison workforce, working with their Belgian and Dutch counterparts has become part of day-to-day operations.

To further the relationships through a better integration of the international and host nation communities and cultures, Col. Sergio M. Dickerson invited senior Belgian officials – to include newly elected mayors – to join him and his fellow commanders for Partnership Day, an event held at the NATO headquarters April 19.

"Every time you help us protect our force, identify housing for our newcomers and host them to your newcomers events, host a commemorative event, make public appearances with us, you support us, you support NATO and you contribute to world peace," Dickerson said to his Belgian audience.

The event consisted of a NATO and SHAPE briefing, a garrison update and economic impact brief, and a round table discussion. Suggested improvements included posting more information in English on Belgian websites, organizing round table discussions in English or French, and partnering on events.

"Everywhere I go in Belgium, I feel this overwhelming gratitude and friendship towards Americans that makes

the Benelux a great place to live and work. I'm proud that we have such a close working and social relationship with you," Dickerson said.

The commander's Belgian guests in return expressed their appreciation for the outreach efforts. "This is the first time in my 25 year political career that I feel such a commitment to truly partner with the local community," said Soignies deputy mayor Marc Verslype at the conclusion of the event.



Col. Sergio M. Dickerson, USAG Benelux commander speaks to Belgian officials during partnership day. The garrison brought 30 Belgian officials and civic leaders to NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium to provide them a better understanding of the garrisons role in NATO.

See also page 3

THE GAZETTE

To subscribe, email usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil

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Partnerships | Continued



Rita Hoefnagels



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Henri Cambier

(top left) Jim Wisler, son of Bob Wisler, visited the Schark Cave to see his father's signature on the wall of the cave Tuesday, April 16, 2013. Bob and 280 fellow GIs wrote their name with charcoal on the wall on Dec. 24, 1944 after they attended a Christmas Eve Mass in the cave. Soon afterwards they were transported to the Ardennes to fight in the Battle of the Bulge, one of the largest and fiercest battles in WWII. The people of the Netherlands maintain the cave as a symbol to lasting friendship and partnership with the United States. (top right) The Belgian Federal Police and U.S. Army Garrison Benelux military police calibrated their speedometers on the Chièvres Air Base runway Friday, April 19, 2013.

(bottom) The Belgian Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit destroys a suspicious package with their specialized robot during an exercise at Caserne Daumerie Monday, April 15, 2013.

Benelux Soldiers named IMCOM-E Best Warriors

By Troy Darr

IMCOM Europe Public Affairs

Installation Management Command Europe announced the winners of the 2013 Best Warrior Competition in a ceremony in Baumholder, Germany Friday, April 19.

Sgt. Bryan Teneyck and Spc. Jonathan Grates, both from U.S. Army Garrison Benelux-Brussels, Belgium, are the Best Warrior Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year.

The Best Warrior Competition was held in Baumholder April 15-18. It consisted of a number of warrior tasks and drills including an Army Physical Fitness Test, marksmanship, combatives, an essay and written examination, a 12-mile foot march with combat gear, warrior tasks and drills, day and night land navigation, and an appearance before a board of brigade command sergeants major.

"We were given the opportunity to compete against our peers and really test our technical and tactical knowledge at multiple Soldier tasks," Teneyck said.

One of the best parts he added was "being in front of seven command sergeants major testing your knowledge and putting you under stress."

"This has been a tough competition, one that has tested all of these Soldiers' physical and mental strength and endurance," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Hartless, IMCOM Europe. "I, once again, commend all of you for your efforts."

During the ceremony both winners were awarded Army Commendation Medals by Col. Antony Haager, IMCOM Europe deputy director.

"As we prepare to celebrate the 238th birthday of the U.S. Army this June, I couldn't help but reflect on how you represent the newest generation of America's most dedicated sons and daughters," said Haager. "Much has been asked of you, but selfless service is a responsibility you have taken on enthusiastically."

"You are the strength of our Nation, the strength of Installation Management Command, and the strength of our communities."

Teneyck and Grates will compete again May 13-18 as they represent IMCOM Europe at the IMCOM-level competition in San Antonio, Texas.

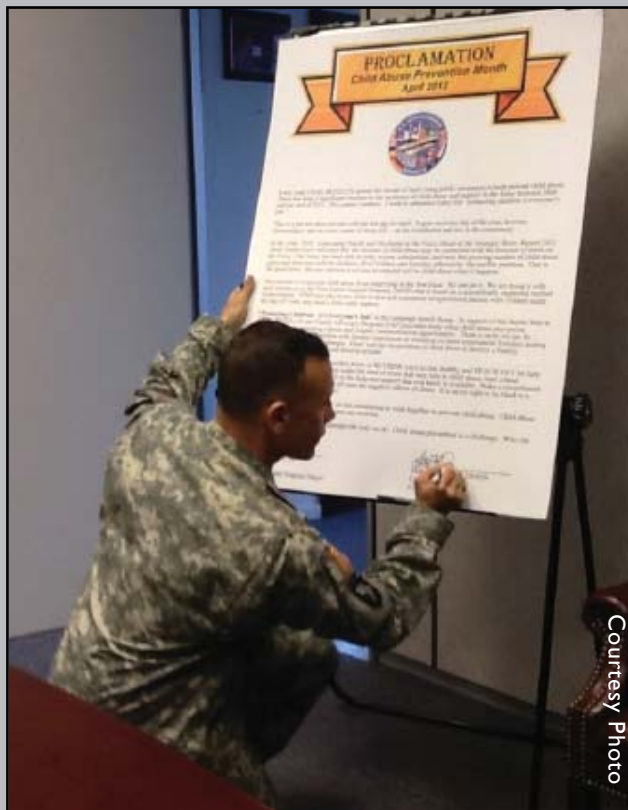
Representing the other garrisons at the Europe-level competition were: Staff Sgt. Paul Fullington, USAG Ansbach; Staff Sgt. Candice Piercey, USAG Vicenza; Sgt. Stephen Alvarado, USAG Baden-Wuerttemberg; Sgt. Michael Hyer, USAG Stuttgart; Sgt. David Martin, USAG Grafenwoehr; Sgt. Edward Smigelski, USAG Wiesbaden; Spc. Brandon Davis, USAG Ansbach; Spc. Shannon Hatcher, USAG Grafenwoehr; Pfc. Crystal Foster, USAG Stuttgart; Pfc. Raven Holstick, USAG Wiesbaden.



Sgt. Bryan Teneyck



Spc. Jonathan Grates



Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation signing

Col. Sergio M. Dickerson, USAG Benelux Garrison Commander, signed the USAG Benelux Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month April 15.

Every year, USAG Benelux spends the month of April using public awareness to help prevent child abuse. There has been a significant increase in the incidence of child abuse and neglect in the Army between 2006 and the end of 2011. The theme for the 2013 Child Abuse Prevention Month Campaign is "Protecting children is everyone's job." This is a job that does not end with the last day in April. It goes on every day of the year, in every circumstance, and in every corner of Army life – on the installation and out in the community. Domestic Violence is an issue which impacts everyone in the community. Service and family members, colleagues, peers, friends and neighbors, even those who are unknown to you.

What more can be done to reduce child abuse? Army life is based on Army Core Values, informed by science, and action-oriented. Military life, although recognized as stressful at times, does not cause child abuse, and each child's family is unique. Community and neighborhood resources, as well as individual family strengths can be expanded and developed so that more families and children can thrive. This culture of 360-degree awareness is vital to preventing child abuse from happening in the first place. An engaged and aware Army community is essential to this effort.

Be observant, security is everyone's concern

If you see suspicious behavior, do not confront the individuals involved. Contact local or Military Police immediately at:

Brussels: DSN 368-9769 o rcivilian 027179796
Chièvres: DSN 361-5301 or civilian 068275301
Schinnen: DSN 360-7555 or civilian 0464437555

Take note of the details:

S – Size (Number of people, gender, ages, and physical descriptions)

A - Activity (Describe exactly what they are doing)

L - Location (Provide exact location)

U – Uniform (Describe what they are wearing, including shoes)

T – Time (Provide date, time, and duration of activity)

E - Equipment (Describe vehicle, make, color etc., license plate, camera, guns, etc).

Suspicious activity is often recalled after an event. We must train ourselves to be on the lookout for things that are out of the ordinary and arouse suspicions.

The following should cause a heightened sense of suspicion:

- Suspicious or unusual interest
- Surveillance (suspicious in nature)
- Inappropriate photographs or videos

- Note-taking
- Drawing of diagrams
- Annotating maps
- Using binoculars or night vision devices

Unusual or suspicious activity does not necessarily mean that terrorist activity is happening, but be aware of the following suspicious behaviors:

- People acting furtively and suspiciously
- People avoiding eye contact
- People departing quickly when seen or approached
- People in places they don't belong
- A strong odor coming from a building or vehicle
- An overloaded vehicle
- Fluid leaking from a vehicle, other than the engine or gas tank
- Over dressed for the weather



community briefs - community briefs - community briefs

Spiritual Fitness Training in Verdun

The USAG Benelux Religious Support Office is hosting Spiritual Fitness Training in Verdun May 3-5. The event is open to all U.S. service members and DoD ID card holders. For more information contact your unit chaplain or call DSN 361-5381. A DA 31 PTDY form (or U.S. Air Force or Navy equivalent) is required for this event. Sequence of events:

Day 1: Travel to Luxembourg Doubletree Hotel "Verdun overview"

Day 2: A day at Verdun, France

Day 3: Return to home station

The guide is a German instructor whose grandfather was the senior ranking German officer at Normandy beach.

American Legion Flanders Field Post information booth at Chièvres PX

The American Legion "Flanders Fields" Post BE02 will have an information / awareness table at the AAFES PX on Chievres Airbase May 4.

Veterans as well as other interested individuals seeking information regarding the activities of the American Legion in Belgium are welcome to meet with Flanders Fields Post BE02 representatives. Additional information can also be obtained from Flanders.Fields.Post.BE02@gmail.com.

American Legion membership eligibility dates are:

Gulf War/War on Terrorism: Aug. 2, 1990, until cessation of hostilities as determined by the U.S. Gov.

Panama: Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990

Grenada & Lebanon: Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984

Vietnam War: Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975

Korean War: June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955

World War II: Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946

World War I: April 6, 1917 – Nov. 11, 1918

Towel service at the gym

Effective today, IMCOM Europe Region Fitness Centers will discontinue towel service. Saving on laundry will ensure better fiscal stewardship of the current and future limited resources. Don't forget to bring your own towel when going to the gym.

SHAPE Players Performing Arts School

Godspell Junior - Buy your tickets now

There will be four performances of the next SHAPE Performing Arts School Recital producing Godspell, Jr with the opening on April 25. Fee is \$8. To buy tickets call DSN 423-3312 or civilian 423-3312 or stop buy SHAPE Performing Arts Center, Building 207. For more information, go to www.shapeplayers.org

AFCU supports Youth Week

Stop by your local Andrews Federal branch during Youth

Week, through April 27, to solve the mystery of savings and get a prize.

CYSS

SHAPE/Chièvres CYSS activities

Schinnen Archery clinic

Enrollment is open through April 24 for the May/June clinic at the Rocca Indoor Facility in Gulpen for ages 10 to 18. Six sessions for two hours each May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and June 5 from 4 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$100 and must be paid at registration. Enroll at CYSS Parent Central Services. For information, call DSN 364-4195 or civilian 045-526-4195.

Dogs' Day Out at the Chièvres Kennel

Mark your calendar for the first annual Dogs' Day Out on Chièvres, May 4 starting at noon. The Kennel will open its doors, you can watch and learn from Pet CPR and First Aid, see a dog obedience demonstration, a dog wash, dog show and much more. Open to U.S. ID card holders and guests, SHAPE Green, Green and Yellow, Yellow and Orange ID Card Holders ID card holders.

Army Substance Abuse (ASAP)

The Army Substance Abuse Program provides free and confidential services for Soldiers, family members 18 and older, DoD civilians, Active Reserve components, and Retirees. Same day assessments are generally available and guaranteed within 72 hours of referral. ASAP is located on SHAPE in Bldg. 342 next to the post office. Hours of operation are Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about assessments, services or to make an appointment call DSN 423-2658 or commercial 065-44-2658.

Win Free Child Care with AFN

Listen to the "Morning Show" with Luke Burns from 7 to 10 a.m. Mon - Fri through April 26 and qualify to win free child care at USAG Benelux CYSS (SHAPE or Brussels). Every week, the winner will receive two hours of free hourly care during the month of May. Every month, winner of the drawing will receive one free SKIES summer session at SHAPE CYSS. For information, call DSN 423-5612 or civilian 065-44-5612.

Employment opportunities

For those who want to learn the Ten Steps of getting a Federal Job and you don't have time to come to the class at ACS, you can now sign up for an Online version and do it on your own time on your own computer. If interested, you'll need to be registered at ACS and sign a disclosure form. You will then be given a user name and password and the link to this training. It's easy and great information to get you started on a career in the federal government. If interested or want more information call DSN 360-7269 / 423-5324 or civilian 31(0)46-443-7269 / 32(0)65-44-5324, or stop by the employment readiness office at the ACS.

BENELUX NEWS BENELUX NEWS

Traffic polluting more than the industry

Traffic is posing a heavier burden to our environment than the industrial sector. Diesel cars are a major problem, as they pollute the air with particulate matter. A recent survey concludes that traffic has leapfrogged the industry as the worst polluter. This is because the industrial sector has made major efforts to become cleaner over the past 10 years, while traffic hasn't followed this trend. Cars have become less fuel consuming, but at the same time motorists are doing more kilometers.

Song for the Dutch King

The committee organizing the celebrations surrounding the investiture of King Willem-Alexander have decided to go ahead with the controversial Song for a King, despite the composer's decision to withdraw it. The song was greeted by a storm of criticism when it was made public and, as a result, two days later composer John Euwbank said he had had enough and was pulling out. The next day, one of the members of the organizing committee, said plans to sing the song to the new king on April 30 would go ahead as originally planned. The song will be sung at a concert in the Ahoy in Rotterdam the evening of April 30 and broadcast to the new king live by video link ahead of the boat parade. A survey shows 40% of people don't like the song but 60% do. The rap in the middle of the song, based around the W from Willem, is what people don't like.

Some dogs, cats can no longer fly on Brussels Airlines

Brussels Airlines has decided to no longer transport "dogs with flat noses" on their flights whether in the hold of the aircraft or in the cabin. The reason for this decision is that they snore and breathe too hard. Not only some dog species are concerned, but also some cat species. Until now, when the animal weights less than 5 kg, it was authorized for the animal to be in the cabin. Over this weight, the animal had to be placed in the hold of the aircraft. As of now, the following dogs are no longer welcome on board Brussels Airlines: Affenpinscher, American bulldog, American Cocker, Boston Terrier, Boxer, Griffin, Bullmastiff, King Charles Spaniel, Chihuahua, ChowChow, Argentine Dogo, Dogue de Bordeaux, French Bulldog, Japanese Chin, and Shar Pei. Among the cats that are no longer welcome are British and Exotic Shorthair, Himalayan, Persian and Scottish Fold.

Belgian Air Force celebrating 100th Anniversary

No official ceremony was planned last week to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the signing by Belgian King Albert of a Royal decree for the creation of the Belgian Air Force, which was initially called "the company of aviators". In August 1914, just one year after its creation when the war broke out, the Belgian Air Force had 22 aircraft.

School shooting threat in Leiden, NL

Secondary schools in Leiden reopened after officials said they were taking the threat of a shooting less seriously. All secondary schools and colleges in the city were closed one day after someone posted a message on an internet board saying they planned to shoot a teacher and as many pupils as

possible. But that no location was named means the threat was downgraded. Nevertheless, schools will be under extra surveillance. Police arrested a former pupil at the British School in Voorschoten in connection with the incident but are still looking into whether or not he placed the threat www.4chan.com. The trail currently leads to Costa Rica. The boy was expelled from the British School in October 2011.

Belgian Islamic Fighters in Syria

A large scale anti-terrorism raid was conducted last week with 46 home searches in the Antwerpen and Brussels area. Among the targets is Fouad Belkacem, one of the leaders of the now-disbanded Sharia4Belgium, who has served a prison sentence at home with an ankle band. Other former members of Sharia4Belgium have also been arrested. The arrests are part of an investigation into youngsters who are recruited in Belgium to go fight in Syria.

Caterpillar

After Caterpillar, the American giant, announced last February that it is going to cut 1,400 of the 3,700 jobs at the plant near Charleroi, trade unions are complaining that they receive very little information from management about what the future of the plant is. The unions are increasingly fearing that Caterpillar has a hidden agenda and plans to ultimately shut down the site in Gosselies. The IT department was moved to Belfast a while ago as well as the financial department and the HR unit, increasing unions' fears that the plant will gradually be emptied.

Dutch unemployment tops 8%

The official Dutch unemployment figure reached a new high of 8.1% in March. In total, 643,000 people are jobless, an average increase of 24,000 a month since the start of the year. The sharpest rise was among people aged 25 to 45. The unemployment rate has risen steadily for the past 18 months, breaking the 500,000 barrier in mid August for the first time since 1996. Never before have so many people been jobless in the Netherlands. The number of people claiming unemployment benefits rose by 3,000 to 360,000.

U.S. Ambassador's tour through Belgium

Soon after his arrival in Brussels, Howard Gutman, who was a business lawyer and someone close to Obama, had launched a somewhat unbelievable challenge, i.e. visiting each and every one of the 589 Belgian cities, communes, and villages. By doing this, the Ambassador's goal was to rebuild the Belgian-American partnership and reinforcing the strong historic and enduring ties between the two countries. On May 5, the Ambassador who will leave this summer will complete his Partnership Tour with a visit to his 589th commune, i.e. Fourons.

Dutch film nominated for Golden Palm

For the first time in 38 years, a Dutch film has been nominated for a Golden Palm award at the Cannes film festival. The film Borgman, directed by Alex van Warmerdam, is about a mysterious stranger who arrives in a smart residential area, sparking a string of disturbing events around a wealthy couple. The prestigious festival takes place on the French Riviera next month.



This column includes events within close distance to Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Today through 6 June

- **Spirou comics exhibition at the Belgian Comic strip center in Brussels** presenting for his 75th anniversary, the adventures of the famous bellboy through albums, figurines and more. For more information, go to www.comicscenter.net/en/home.



27 April

- **Free open-air concert in Leuze-en-Hainaut by Suarez** at 8 p.m.

27-28 April

- **Belvue weekend in Brussels** on Place des Palais 7- Enjoy a breakfast and a visit of the Belvue museum. Price is €8 for adults and €4 under 18 years old. More information at www.belvue.be/en/museum.
- **Nature and flavors fair in Fernelmont** with booths dedicated to environment subjects, local products tastings, and nature activities. Held on Rue du Tronquoy 26 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Family Garden's Day in Bois-Seigneur-Isaac** at the Castle on Rue de Hal 22b. More than 150 booths of fruits, vegetables, herbs, trees, plants, flowers garden furniture, etc. and lots of entertainment for the children and the parents. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on both days. Entrance fee is €7.5 for adults and free under 18 years old.
- **Crafts fair in Ath** presenting many different types of crafts and proposing lots of entertainment for the youngest. Held at the Quai de l'Esplanade from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on both days. (200 booths)
- **Animal fair in Charleroi** on Avenue de l'Europe 21 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entrance fee is 5.



27 April through 1 May

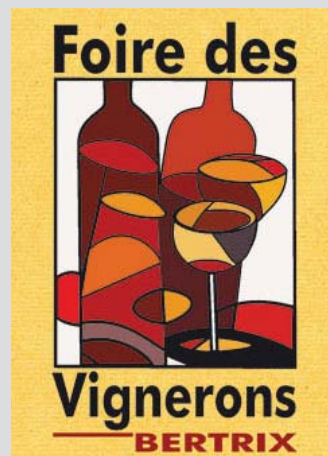
- **Annual International antique ceramics & collectibles fair in Brussels** at the Apostolic Nunciature, on Rue du Sablon. This beautiful mansion built in the 16th and 17th century housed the Vatican embassy in the 19th century. The fair is a cultural and commercial event uniting collectors and admirers of ceramics, porcelain, biscuit, enamels, glass and silverware. It also draws anyone passionate about fine objects and curiosities. Open all days from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entrance is €5.



This column includes events within close distance to Brunssum and Schinnen.

26-28 April

- **The Wine Growers Festival in Bertrix** in the Hall, Grand Place. You have three days of tasting and buying wine. Open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on 26 April and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on 27-28 April.



27 April

- **Antique & Curiosa Market in Roermond** at Kloosterwandelplein from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

27-28 April

- **Thai Market in Borglaan (BE)** with Thai food and non-food is held in Stroop Fabriek Borgloon on Stationsstraat 54. No entrance fees. Open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday
- **The Gardens of Monceau in Monceau-sur-Sambre (BE)** is an open air event about gardening and nature in the park around the beautiful castle of Monceau with regional products, activities and lots more. Open both days from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Harbor Fest in Oudenbosch.** Visitors will find more than 125 booths, music, naval parade, a chance to visit the sailboats and more attractions and activities from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Ceramics Market in Paderborn (GE)** at the square in front of the Zentralbibliothek (library) in Geiselschen Garten. The market is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

27 April

- **Antique & curiosa market in the center of Roermond** at Kloosterwandelplein from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ongoing Events & Happenings

Through May 5

- **Tutankhamen exhibition in Amsterdam** at Amsterdam Expo displays more than 1,000 replicas of the most important objects and treasures. It gives information about the culture and spiritual world of ancient Egypt. Open every day from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information go to www.amsterdamexpo.nl.



This column includes events within close distance to Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

27 April through 5 May

- **Amaryllis and Orchid exhibition in Beloeil** at the Château of Beloeil on rue du Château 11 - The princes' abode hosts a floral show where amaryllis mixed with irises, the kings' flowers, dominate the front of the stage. 2000 amaryllis and 600 irises are combined in sumptuous bouquets, strewn over the halls, dining rooms, ceremonial rooms and in the library of the Beloeil castle. Prices are €4.5 for children and €8 for adults. More information on www.chateaubeloeil.com/fr/accueil.html.

28 April

- **Military memorabilia in Ciney** at the Ciney expo on 3 Rue du Marché Couvert- The Ciney Militaria fair is the most important militaria fair in Europe. You can find more than 550 exhibitors coming from all Europe (Germany, France, Poland, Italy, etc.) The exhibitors are selling uniforms, helmets, spare parts,



medals, flags, engravings, charts, books and other items. Open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entrance fee is €10. More information on www.cineyexpo.be/agenda/evenement.php?id=229.

- **Mountain bike ride and volksmarch in Mons** for 24, 36, 45, 55, 67 and 77 km. Departure is on Rue de l'Héribus from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. for the mountain bike ride and from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. for the volksmarch. Participation fee is from €4 to €6.
- **Volksmarch in Huissignies** for 5, 10, 20 km + 10km jogging. Departure is on Rue de l'Eglise from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Neufvilles** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departure is at the Sports center on Rue de Godimont from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Mons** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is on Route d'Obourg 18 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ongoing Events & Happenings

Through 12 May

- **Open doors at the Royal Greenhouses in Brussels** - Open from Tuesday to Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. and from 8 to 10 p.m. and on weekends from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 8 to 10 p.m. Entrance fee is €2.50, free under 18. For more information on www.brussels.be/artdet.cfm?id=4843&agendaId=369.

Through 19 May

- **David Lynch - Circle of Dreams exhibition in La Louvière** featuring David Lynch's lithographs and woodcuts for the first time in Belgium. His first experimental short films, will come along with the prints. David Lynch is particularly known for his cinema. More information on www.centrede-lagravure.be/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=12703&expo=Actu&la=2&langue=EN.



This column includes events within close distance to Brunssum and Schinnen.

Ongoing Events & Happenings continued

Through 20 May

- **Keukenhof Gardens** near the town of Lisse open its gates again to show an unprecedented wealth of spectacular floral displays planted in endless varieties among beautiful works of art. This year the international flower exhibition has chosen "United Kingdom - Land of Great Gardens" as its central theme. The Keukenhof is open daily 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Ticket office closes at 6 p.m. Entry is €15 per adult and €7.50 per child aged 4 to 11. More info in English: www.keukenhof.nl.

UPCOMING

100 KM legendary Swiss military run

The Swiss military is hosting its legendary 100 km Biel running days starting June 7 in the following categories:

- 100 km military patrol for 2 persons or
- 100 km military relay race for 5 persons

The start is June 7 at 10 p.m. for patrols and at 11 p.m. for relay race.

Patrol and relay race are open to Armed Forces active duty or veterans and emergency services, i.e. police, fire service or civil protection.

Registration can be done online at www.100km.ch. Fee is CHF130 per person for the military patrol and CHF260 per team for the military relay race.

Those interested, may also contact the superintendent, Military Personnel and Manpower at the USNMR Office, DSN 423-4548 or civilian 065-444548 for information.



SHAPE Trips & Tours

For information on the trips below,
call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-44-3884

- **Versailles, May 11** - What better way to spend a spring day than on a tour of the famous palace of Versailles. We will begin our day with a tour of the palace and royal apartments. Then you are free to explore the many fanciful gardens, original fountains, and other magnificent buildings on this grand estate*. Take lunch in one of the many cafes on the grounds or even do some shopping in the town beyond. * Entrance to the musical gardens, Trianon Palaces and Marie Antoinette estate not included. Price is adults €75, youth (0-17) €65. Departs SHAPE at 6 a.m. and returns to SHAPE at 10 p.m. Departs Brussels at 7 a.m. and returns to Brussels 11 p.m.

Schinnen Trips and Tours

For information on the trips below
call DSN 360-7561 or civilian
0031-(0)46-4437561

- **Trout Fishing in the Netherlands, April 27** - Join us for a family day of trout fishing at a nearby pond. Included in the \$30 price is transportation, gutting and cleaning of the trout. No rods or reels provided and all trout caught will be evenly distributed. Register now with full payment.

SHAPE Travel Group

For information on the trips
below call civilian 065-336560

Travel Group members are available every Wed and Fri from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Foyer of the SHAPE Library, Bldg. 307.

- **Windsor Castle, May 7** - Take a day trip to Windsor Castle, home of the British Royal family for nearly 1000 years. See the splendor of the state rooms, decorated with fine art and beautiful furniture. Take a stroll through the grounds. Your entry is included in the price. The castle is poised above the village of Windsor which is particularly well served when it comes to shops, with a wide selection of gift and fashion shops, restaurants and a department store known for its selection of toys. There is also the famous Windsor Royal Shopping Mall in a Grade II listed Victorian Railway Station. The famous Eton College can be reached via a foot bridge (about 20 minutes walk) across the Thames River. Price is €65,.

BELGIAN PARKS

Discounted tickets for Walibi, Aqualibi, and Bellewaerde parks available at the SHAPE Trips and Tours office respectively at the price of €29, €15 and €26 each. Coming soon, Plopsa Land tickets for €25 each.



Upcoming trips:

SHAPE Trips & Tours

- **Polish Pottery and Czech Crystal Shopping, May 9-12 (waiting list only)**
- **Berlin, May 17-20 (Reserve before April 5)**
- **Amsterdam, May 25**
- **Stonehenge, June 1**
- **Normandy Beaches and Mont St Michel, June 7-9**
- **Dutch Day, June 15**
- **Ghent, June 22**
- **Knights Meal, Cochem Castle, June 29**
- **Budapest, July 20-24**
- **London overnight, Aug 10-11**
- **Russia, Moscow and St. Petersburg, Oct 25-31 (Sign up for a possible 2nd group)**
- **Poland, Oct 30-Nov 3**

SHAPE Travel Group

- **Giverny: Monet's house and gardens & Museum, May 23**
- **Paris, June 6**
- **Boulogne-sur-Mer, June 12**
- **Alkmaar cheese market & Zaanse Schans windmills, Aug 30**

For recurring events check on www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/sites/local/pages/gazette/GazetteExtra.pdf.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BRUNSSUM/SCHINNEN COMMUNITY.

April 24

- **Heinsberg Hospital Tours** - Touring the maternity/obstetrics ward of local hospitals is an important way for pregnant women to prepare for the big day. Tours address admitting procedures and childbirth concerns. Meet at the hospital lobby at 6 p.m. For more information contact the New Parent Support Program at ACS. at DSN 360-7335 or civilian 046-443-7335.

April 26

- **Hearts Apart** - Held at AFNORTH International School, Schinnen ACS offers a support meeting for youth separated from a loved one, whether through deployment or a Family situation. Meetings are 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. for grades 4-6, and 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. for younger grades. For details call the Deployment Readiness office at DSN 360-7218 or civilian 046-443-7218.

April 27-28

- **Labor, Birth and Beyond Classes** - Offered to expectant parents in their third trimester, this class covers labor, delivery, caring for your newborn and breastfeeding basics. Class is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Schinnen ACS Conference Room. To register call NPSP at DSN 360-7335 or civilian 046-443-7335.

May 1

- **First Term Briefing** - Briefings are 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Schinnen ACS. This is a mandatory briefing for all first term/initial term soldiers. Learn about the practical approach to financial management, the tools to handle money wisely and the ability to make informed purchasing decisions. For more information or to register, call DSN 360-7500 or civilian 046-443-7500.
- **Parent Advisory Group meeting** - Held from noon to 1 p.m. at the Alliance Restaurant on JFC Brunssum. Come and share your thoughts on our programs- CDC, SAC, YC, Sports & Fitness, Outreach Services and Parent Central. Contact the PAG President at 045-526-2626 to identify issues, concerns, or questions.

May 3

- **Tri-Border Volunteer Recognition Ceremony** - Join us at the JFC Conference Center to recognize our Tri-Border Volunteers for their work in 2012. Doors open at 11:45 a.m. for registration followed by a light lunch at noon. The ceremony runs until 2:30 p.m. For more information and to RSVP, call DSN 360-7451 or civilian 046-443-7451 or Geilenkirchen A&FRC at 00492451-63-3791.

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

May 1-21 (Registration deadline is April 26)

- **Functional Academic Skills Training (FAST)** - The FAST Class is an on-duty education program that assists service members and civilians improve their reading, writing, mathematical, and test-taking skills. The class is available to all SHAPE service members and civilians and is held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the USAG Benelux Education Center. To register, fill out the enrollment form at the Education Center, Bldg. 212, room 128. For additional information, call DSN 423-8203 or civilian 065-44-8203.

May 4-5

- **Spring Bazaar** - The bazaar will be held at the SHAPE School Cafeteria May from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and May 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. All funds raised from this event go to the SHAPE High School Scholarship fund.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

Through April 26

- **Limited hours at NATO Dental Clinic** - Emergency care will remain available. Call SHAPE DSN 423-5806 or civilian 065-44-5806 for emergencies; call DSN 368-9520 or civilian 02-717-9520 for non-emergency issues.

May 1

- **Bunco** - Held at the 3 Star Lounge. Buy in is \$5. For more information call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-717-9822.

May 2

- **Mandatory Dodgeball coaches meeting** - At 1 p.m. at the Fitness Center. For more information call DSN 368-9667 or civilian 02-717-9667.

May 3

- **Cinco de Mayo** - Held at the 3 Star Lounge from 6 to 10 p.m. For more information call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-717-9822.